



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Utah

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Utah received \$5.1 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Utah Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- The **Utah Museum of Natural History, Salt Lake City**, received a \$300,000 grant to support “Native Voices,” a long-term exhibition of the history of Native Americans in Utah, making use of more than five hundred objects from the museum’s ethnographic collection.
- Experimental philosophy examines how real-world factors affect our thinking about classic philosophical questions. To help twenty-four college instructors apply this approach in the classroom, the **University of Utah, Salt Lake City**, hosted a four-week institute, which was supported by a \$182,000 grant.
- Fifteen American teachers of Spanish attended a five-week seminar in Madrid to study Spanish dramatic literature inspired by the art of such masters as Velasquez and Picasso on display at the Prado museum. Faculty from **Brigham Young University, Provo**, directed the seminar, with support from a \$131,000 grant.
- The **John Wesley Powell River History Museum** received a \$5,000 grant to improve archive storage and support staff training in the proper handling of documents and artifacts relating to the settlement of the Green River area.
- A **200-hundred-million-word, fully searchable, web-based historical corpus of American English** is being created at Brigham Young University with support from a \$200,000 grant. The project will enable researchers to examine semantic and stylistic changes in our national language across numerous text genres over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- The Navajo art of basket weaving was once considered nearly extinct, but in recent decades it has come spinning back to life in new forms that recall traditional Navajo stories. The **Utah Museum of Natural History**, with support from a \$40,000 grant, developed a temporary exhibition, along with a traveling exhibition and catalog, devoted to the new and traditional aspects of this renaissance.
- The **Brigham City Museum and Gallery** and the **University of Utah** received grants of \$1,000 each to host the traveling exhibition “Wrapped in Pride,” a consideration of kente cloth and the story of its cultural migration from Ghana to the backs of global black luminaries such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Nelson Mandela, and Muhammad Ali.
- 2009 was the centennial year of the birth of Wallace Stegner, great novelist of the western experience. The **Utah Humanities Council** observed the occasion by supporting a critical monograph and public programs, including an academic symposium on Stegner’s life and work.
- The **Venture Course in the Humanities**, a program of the Utah Humanities Council modeled on the widely used Clemente program, provides an undergraduate humanities course to economically disadvantaged adults lacking a college education. Classes meet weekly from September through April and include sections on American history, literature, critical thinking, and writing.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Nationwide

NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans. Here are a few examples.

PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

AMERICAN VOICES

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King, Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone's *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including 18 Pulitzer Prizes.

PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS

NEH investments in the “digital humanities” make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging is being used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT

More than \$1.66 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN

NEH-supported films, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's seven-part *The War* (2007), and teachers made extensive use of *The Buddha*. NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reached classrooms across the country.

KEEPING TEACHERS UP TO DATE

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,500 college teachers and 7,000 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

REACHING ACROSS THE NATION

Last year state humanities councils, NEH's affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 17,700 reading and discussion programs, 5,700 literacy programs, 5,800 speakers bureau presentations, 5,800 conferences, 2,300 Chautauqua events, 7,120 media programs, and 7,600 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 4,600 exhibitions.